APPENDIX XVI.

[Vide answer to question No. 1381 asked by Mr. J. A. Saldanha at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 1st February 1929, page 592 supra.]

Extract of G.O. No. 865, Public, dated 7th October 1928.

Order.—All Members of the Committee may draw travelling and daily allowances under the rules applicable to them as Members of the Madras Legislative Council attending its meetings.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

H. G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

APPENDIX XVII.

[Vide answer to question No. 1387 asked by Mr. D. Narayana Raju at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 1st February 1929, page 594 supra.]

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Land Revenue and Settlement, Mis. No. 2551, dated the 10th September 1927.

[*Subject*—Acts and Bills—Village Panchayat Courts—Execution of decrees—Amendment of Act or Rules—Necessity—Collector's remarks submitted with Board's remarks.]

Submitted to Government with reference to their Memorandum No. 705/B-2, dated 6th May 1927.

2. The Board considers that no case has been made out for any modification of the Village Courts Act or the rules made thereunder except perhaps in respect of the custody of attached property and submits the following remarks on the several difficulties raised by M.R.Ry. Narayana Raju, M.L.C., in the matter of the execution of decrees by the presidents of the panchayat courts:—

Delicacy of the position of the president.—Panchayatdars are elected by adult males who are residents of the village (rule 8) and they elect one among themselves as the president of the panchayat court [section 9 (5)]. The villagers know that such courts are constituted to enable them to get a prompt remedy in suits for recovery of money at considerably less expense than would be necessary in the civil courts. There is thus no reason why the president of a panchayat court should feel it a delicate matter to discharge his duty in the execution of the court's decrees. The Board has no sympathy with the attitude which demands the honour of the post without its responsibilities and endeavours to foist all possibly unpopular duties on to other shoulders.

Staff.—Section 11 lays down that it shall be the duty of the village servant usually employed in carrying messages to act under the orders of the village munsif (which term includes the president of the panchayat court—section 5) in seizing, selling and delivering movable properties attached under the Act. It is possible that this leads to friction between the village munsif and the president in the utilization of the services of the village servants. The former may quite legitimately require them for revenue duties particularly in the kist seasons. It is clear that the arrangement is not permanently satisfactory, but at present there is no justification for a separate menial